

The Desert SUSTAINER

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Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

31 soldiers wounded in explosion near Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq — A car bomb explosion injured 31 U.S. soldiers near Mosul on Tuesday, a day after an American soldier and Iraqi policeman were killed in the northern Iraqi city.

The attack occurred at the gate of

the barracks of the 3rd Brigade of 101 Airborne division in the town of Talafar, 30 miles west of Mosul, spokesman Maj. Trey Cate said. Guards opened fire on the vehicle and it blew up, he said.

The gunfire caused the car to blow up, sending debris, mostly glass, flying, the military said. None of the soldiers' injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

"Whether it was a suicide attack or not, I don't know," Cate said.

On Monday, insurgents shot and killed a U.S. soldier guarding a gas station in northern Iraq, and an Iraqi policeman

died trying to defuse a bomb, the U.S. military said.

The attack on the soldier from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division took place in Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said in Baghdad.

"Four Iraqi males traveling in vehicles stopped approximately 50 meters [yards] from a gas station in Mosul and opened fire on coalition soldiers guarding the station," Kimmitt said. "One coalition soldier died of gunshot wounds in that attack."

Hours after the killing, three U.S. soldiers in Mosul were wounded when a bomb exploded as their patrol passed, a U.S. military spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

Three other U.S. soldiers were killed and one injured Monday when two Stryker infantry carrier vehicles they were riding in rolled into a canal near Duluyah, 30 miles north of Baghdad. Hostile fire was not involved.



photo by Pfc. Joshua Hutcheson

Pfc. Jacob Bell, Co. B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), keeps watch in northern Iraq.

U.S. forces launch major ground operation in Afghanistan

(CNN) — The U.S. military has launched a major ground operation in Afghanistan in an effort to eliminate the remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban regime overthrown in 2001.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty described "Operation Avalanche", which began over the weekend, as the largest ground operation yet in Afghanistan.

He said the operation would focus on areas where international troops and aid workers have been hit by terrorists.

"We're going to operate simultaneously throughout the entire eastern and southern part of the country so we get inside the decision cycle; so we hit them before they can hit innocent men, women and children," Hilferty said.

Between 2,000 and 11,500 soldiers will be dispatched in east and south Afghanistan to go after Taliban and al Qaeda

milantants, he said.

"The terrorists are going into their winter campaigning season where they don't campaign as much," he said "We're going to make sure that we get them before they get a chance to hunker down."

Hilferty said Operation Avalanche comes as Operation Mountain Resolve, carried out in the snowy peaks of eastern Afghanistan, ends.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani engineer working in Afghanistan for the U.S. government was killed Monday and another was seriously wounded when their vehicle came under automatic weapons fire, a company executive told CNN.

And on Saturday at least 15 people were wounded after a bomb attached to a bicycle exploded in Kandahar's main square.

Ozzy Osbourne seriously injured in ATV accident

LOS ANGELES, California (CNN) — Ozzy Osbourne was seriously injured Monday in an accident while riding an all-terrain vehicle on the grounds of his British estate, according to Cindy Guagenti, a publicist for the heavy metal legend.

Guagenti said Osbourne underwent emergency surgery after breaking his collarbone, six ribs and a vertebra in his neck.

She said the operation was necessary to “lift the collarbone, which is believed to be resting on a major artery interrupting blood flow to his arm.”

Guagenti also said doctors were attempting to stop “some bleeding into his

lungs,” but she said the injuries were not considered life-threatening.

The accident took place on the 55-year-old rocker’s Buckinghamshire property while he was taking a day off from promoting a new single he recorded with his daughter, Kelly.

Osbourne and his family star in a taped Christmas special airing on MTV Thursday.

The third season of their reality TV series “The Osbournes” debuts on the network in January.

In an article in Sunday’s Los Angeles Times, the former lead singer of Black Sabbath said his unusual behavior

on “The Osbournes” was the result of a 42-pill-a-day regimen prescribed by his Beverly Hills doctor, which included anti-psychotic drugs and tranquilizers.

Osbourne said he has since fired his physician.

An attorney for the doctor told the Times the allegations were false.

Osbourne’s publicist said pills had nothing to do with his accident Monday.

Osbourne made headlines in his native Britain last month when he told a newspaper he had been sexually molested as a child and suffered emotional consequences for many years afterward.

17th Field Artillery wins bus stop contest

The soldiers of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade can be proud every time they ride a bus because they are the victors of LSA Anaconda’s bus stop decorating contest.

Spc. Randy Kyota and Spc. Kenneth Del Valle painted the bus stop, which included all the battalion crests in the brigade and a map of Oklahoma as well as being framed by artillery pieces.

“It makes me feel good,” said Del Valle. “And it makes me confident in my work.”

“It feels good to see something done the way you wanted it,” he said.

Kyota and Del Valle picked a pizza and ice cream party, courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, as their prize.

Finishing second in the contest was the 21st Combat Support Hospital while the 7th Corps Support Group got third.



photo by Sgt. Grant Calease

TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:

Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year’s - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

VEHICLE POLICY

No soldier or Department of the Army civilian is permitted to possess, operate or obtain a privately owned vehicle to include a motorcycle or other motorized vehicle. Any POVs in the possession of soldiers and DA civilians will be confiscated by the military police or base operations personnel.

MAILING HOME

With redeployment around the corner the time has come for soldiers to start mailing home personal items. A few things for the soldiers to remember are, one; with the surge of outgoing mail your items will take longer to get home and two; OCIE and TA-50 items can not be sent in the mail.

CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at grant.calease@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

Magic finally end 19-game skid

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The Orlando Magic turned up their game — and the volume.

“We had that music crunked, man,”

Tracy McGrady said after the Magic beat the Phoenix Suns 105-98 on Monday night to snap a 19-game losing streak.

As the music blared, coach Johnny

Davis was accepting a bottle of champagne in honor of his first victory since taking over for the fired Doc Rivers on Nov. 18.

“For the first time in a long time, we have a very happy locker room,” Davis said. “And, for the first time in a long time, I can actually smile.”

The Magic, 1-9 under Davis, avoided becoming only the sixth team in NBA history to lose 20 straight games.

The losing streak was the NBA's longest since 1997-98, when the Denver Nuggets lost 23 straight to tie the 1995-96 Vancouver Grizzlies for most consecutive losses in one season.

The overall record is 24 by the Cleveland Cavaliers at the end of 1981-82 and the start of the following season.

The Magic had to climb out of a 22-point hole in the first quarter to win for the first time since Oct. 29, an overtime victory in the opener at New York. It was the third-biggest comeback in team history, and the largest deficit the Magic have overcome at home.



Tracy McGrady scored 16 pts as the Magic beat the suns 105-98

Longest losing streaks...		
No	Team	Season
23	Vancouver	1995-96
23	Denver	1997-98
20	Philadelphia	1972-73
20	Dallas	1993-94
19	Orlando	2002-03
19	Cleveland	1981-82
19	San Diego	1981-82
19	L.A. Clippers	1988-89
19	Dallas	1992-93
19	Vancouver	1996-97

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC		MIDWEST	
76ers	—	Mavericks	—
Nets	1.5	Nuggets	—
Celtics	2	Rockets	0.5
Wizards	3	T-Wolves	1
Knicks	4	Grizzlies	1.5
Heat	5.5	Jazz	2
Magic	9	Spurs	2
CENTRAL		PACIFIC	
Pacers	—	Lakers	—
Hornets	1.5	Kings	3
Pistons	2	Blazers	6
Raptors	3.5	Sonics	6.5
Bucks	7	Warriors	7
Hawks	10	Clippers	9
Bulls	10.5	Suns	9
Cavs	10.5		

National Hockey League

EASTERN		WESTERN	
ATLANTIC		CENTRAL	
Flyers	39	Red Wings	33
Devils	34	Blues	33
Rangers	27	Predators	29
Islanders	22	Blue Jackets	20
Penguins	17	Black Hawks	20
NORTHEAST		NORTHWEST	
Maple Leafs	37	Canucks	34
Bruins	33	Avalanche	34
Senators	29	Flames	30
Canadiens	28	Oilers	25
Sabres	27	Wild	23
SOUTHEAST		PACIFIC	
Thrashers	32	Kings	30
Lightning	31	Sharks	29
Panthers	23	Mighty Ducks	27
Hurricanes	23	Coyotes	26
Capitals	18	Stars	25

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 20

1. Florida
2. UCONN
3. Missouri
4. Duke
5. Kansas
6. Texas
7. North Carolina
8. Kentucky
9. Arizona
10. Georgia Tech
11. Oklahoma
12. St. Joseph's
13. Stanford
14. Illinois
15. Wake Forest
16. Purdue
17. Gonzaga
18. Cincinnati
19. Syracuse
20. Pittsburgh

BCS Standings

1. Oklahoma
2. LSU
3. USC
4. Michigan
5. Ohio State
6. Texas
7. Florida St.
8. Tennessee
9. Miami (FL)
10. Kansas St.
11. Miami(OH)
12. Georgia
13. Iowa
14. Purdue
15. Florida
16. WashingtonSt
17. Boise St.
18. TCU
19. Ole Miss
20. Nebraska

NFL Standings

AFC		NFC	
East		East	
Patriots	11-2	Eagles	10-3
Dolphins	8-5	Cowboys	8-5
Bills	6-7	Redskins	5-8
Jets	5-8	Giants	4-9
West		West	
Chiefs	11-2	Rams	9-3
Broncos	8-5	Seahawks	8-5
Raiders	3-9	49ers	6-7
Chargers	3-10	Cardinals	3-10
North		North	
Ravens	8-5	Vikings	8-5
Bengals	7-6	Packers	7-6
Steelers	5-8	Bears	5-8
Browns	4-8	Lions	4-9
South		South	
Colts	10-3	Panthers	9-4
Titans	9-4	Saints	6-7
Texans	5-8	Buccaneers	6-7
Jaguars	4-9	Falcons	2-11